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Allen W. Dulles, Master Spy

Allen W. Dulles, who died in Washington Wednesday evening, was a member of one of the country's most distinguished families associated with the nation's public service. His passing is of special interest to this area because of ties with this locality and the North Country.

Mr. Dulles served as executive officer of the Central Intelligence Agency for eight years. This was the period of the CIA's greatest growth and a period in which it was involved in sharp controversy.

Nothing in Mr. Dulles' manner suggested a master spy working in the world's dark corners. But unquestionably he was of the

world's ablest. During World War II, he directed in Switzerland the OSS (Office of Strategic Services), an espionage organization that reached into Hitler's foreign office, that was a major factor in overthrowing Mussolini, that worked effectively behind enemy lines in Austria, Poland and Yugoslavia.

Americans traditionally do not like spy organizations. Perhaps this is because they are too ebullient, too unable to keep their mouths shut. But Allen Dulles, who never looked or acted cloak and dagger, moulded one of the world's most far-flung security organizations. In this respect, he was a paradox. But he was a power.